

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
UNION CITY POLICE LIEUTENANT  
DON SCHUITEMAKER

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 8, 2003*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, on January 25, 2003 the Union City Police Department will celebrate the retirement of one of its finest officers, Lieutenant Don Schuitemaker.

In his 28-year law enforcement career Lieutenant Schuitemaker has served as a model for school policing, trained other officers, and worked with juveniles and the narcotics unit.

Lieutenant Schuitemaker served his entire career with the Union City Police Department. He joined the force on October 25, 1974, after attending the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Academy, one of the toughest in the State, where he achieved an expert marksman's medallion.

Lieutenant Schuitemaker became part of the Union City Special Enforcement Response Team (SWAT), in 1978, and in 1984 he retired from the team as one of its leaders.

In 1979, he became the department's first School Resource Officer, a new and innovative position. Based largely on Lieutenant Schuitemaker's success in that position, and in cooperation with the New Haven Unified School District, the number of School Resource Officers positions was increased. The Union City program has become a model for other law enforcement agencies to follow, partly as a result of Lieutenant Schuitemaker's accomplishments.

Lieutenant Schuitemaker was promoted to sergeant in 1981, and served as Personnel and Training Manager before being selected to supervise the Southern Alameda County Narcotics Enforcement Team, a tri-city narcotics and vice task force. In 1989, he was selected to supervise the department's Juvenile Unit.

In 1992, he transferred to patrol duty, where in addition to typical Watch Commander duties, he supervised the training of new officers as the Field Training Officer Program Supervisor. He later worked in the Traffic Unit, where he was instrumental in bringing back motorcycles as an effective enforcement tool, and as a true "motor cop" rode the motorcycle throughout his tour of duty.

In 2000, he was promoted to Acting Lieutenant, and then to Lieutenant. During that time, Lieutenant Schuitemaker acted as a Field Operations Officer, overseeing the operation of the department's patrol section. He holds basic, intermediate, advanced, supervisory, and management Peace Officer Standards and Training certificates.

I am honored to join the colleagues of Lieutenant Schuitemaker to commend his many years of dedicated and exemplary service to law enforcement. His commitment to excellence has left its irreplaceable mark on the Union City Police Department.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "GUN  
SHOW BACKGROUND CHECK ACT  
OF 2003"

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 8, 2003*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Gun Show Background Check Act of 2003", legislation designed to close the loophole in federal gun laws which allow criminals to buy firearms at gun shows. I am joined by Representatives FRANK, BERMAN, NADLER, LOFGREN, MEEHAN, DELAHUNT, WEXLER, ACKERMAN, BROWN of Florida, KILPATRICK, LEE, MARKEY, SCHAKOWSKY, BLUMENAUER, CUMMINGS, FATAH, HASTINGS of Florida, KENNEDY, TOWNS, DEUTSCH, DEGETTE, PAYNE, STARK, DAVIS of Florida, CLAY, NORTON, HOLT, GUTIERREZ, and McDERMOTT.

As you know, under current law federal firearms licenses are required to maintain careful records of their sales, and under the Brady Act, to check the purchaser's background with the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) before transferring any firearm. However, a person does not need a federal firearms license—and the Brady Act does not apply—if the person is not "engaged in the business" of selling firearms pursuant to federal law.

My bill corrects these deficiencies by (1) requiring background checks for all firearms sales at gun shows, (2) defining gun shows to include any event at which 50 or more firearms are offered or exhibited for sale and (3) by improving firearm tracing measures—in the event that a firearm becomes the subject of a law enforcement investigation. Thus, unlike other legislation introduced in the past which actually weakens the Brady law by shortening background checks to 24 hours and considerably limits the type of information in individual records that may be searched, my bill guarantees that over 2,200 additional felons, fugitives and stalkers will be denied the opportunity to purchase a gun.

Considering the many recent tragedies and threats of violence we have had in our nation's schools and the recent reports indicating that the U.S. gun industry sold numerous guns to members of Osama bin Laden's "Al Qaeda" terrorist network, the importance of enacting legislation that will promote a safe and sound environment can not be overstated.

It's time for smarter, better gun safety enforcement. The bill we are introducing today will move us in that direction. I am hopeful that Congress will move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO: DURANGO  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 8, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the Durango Police Department for their service and dedication during one of Colorado's most formidable fire seasons. Last summer, the Durango Police Department played an integral

role in containing the Missionary Ridge forest fire that burned over 70,000 acres in Southwestern Colorado. Today, I would like to pay tribute to their heroic efforts before this body of Congress and this nation.

When the Missionary Ridge fire first erupted last June, the citizens of Durango, Bayfield and the surrounding communities called upon the Durango Police Department to protect their loved ones, homes, and communities from what would become the worst fire in area history. The fire began in a ditch beside Missionary Ridge Road, just 15 miles northeast of Durango, and grew to consume more than 70,000 acres, 56 residences, and 27 outbuildings.

Although the Missionary Ridge fire was a devastating reminder of how destructive forest fires can be, it also served to remind us of the men and women who risk their lives to protect their fellow citizens on a daily basis. The Durango Police Department has roots reaching back to 1881, when one marshal and two deputies were solely responsible for law enforcement in the area. Today, the Department has 50 sworn officers under the leadership of Chief Al Bell. During the Missionary Ridge Fire, the Durango Police Department turned their resources to numerous emergency activities, including over 200 hours debriefing emergency workers, firefighters, police officers, as well as Red Cross volunteers, to help them cope with the tragedy. The personnel and resources devoted to this summer's fires by the Durango Police Department illustrate the dedication and readiness with which these men and women serve the citizens of Durango.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Durango Police Department before this body of Congress and this nation. I want to commend all of the employees of the Durango Police Department for their determination, courage, and resolve during last summer's efforts on Missionary Ridge. Without the help of the Durango Police Department and others, the added devastation to our community, environment, and quality of life would have been unimaginable. Their tireless commitment throughout the summer's exhaustive fire season has served as an inspiration to us all, and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding group of Americans in this Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED  
STATES WEATHER RESEARCH  
PROGRAM ACT OF 2003

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 8, 2003*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a very important piece of legislation, the "United States Weather Research Program Act of 2003." The human toll and dollar loss from severe weather events is staggering. Each year this nation experiences more than 1,500 weather-related fatalities and more than 15 billion dollars in damage to property.

The Weather Research Program is a partnership among academic and commercial communities and several government agencies—the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the U.S.